

**DECLARATION**

**Express Mail  
EV 195836403 US**

As a below named inventor, I declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**ANIMAL RESISTANT TRASH CONTAINER LID AND TRASH CONTAINER SYSTEM**

the specification of which:

  X   is attached hereto.

           was filed on                                  as Application Serial No.                         .

           was filed on                                  as PCT International Application No.                         .

           was amended on                                 .

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Priority Claimed

|             |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|
| <u>None</u> | <u>  </u> | <u>  </u> | <u>  </u> | <u>  </u> |
| (Number)    | (Country)   | (Month/day/year filed)                                  | Yes   | No  |

I claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

|                          |   |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|
| <u>None</u>              | <u>  </u> | <u>  </u> | <u>  </u> |
| (Application Serial No.) | (Filing Date)   | (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)                 |   |

I claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 1.19(e) of any United States Provisional application(s) listed below:

|                          |   |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|
| <u>None</u>              | <u>  </u> | <u>  </u> | <u>  </u> |
| (Application Serial No.) | (Filing Date)   | (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)                 |   |

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Bradley D. Miller      9/16/03  
Inventor's Signature      Date

Bradley D. Miller  
Full name of sole or first joint inventor

U.S.  
Citizenship

Jenison, Michigan  
Residence (City & State)

1025 Lumina Drive, Jenison, Michigan 49428  
Post Office Address

Frederick A. Greca, Jr.      9/16/03  
Inventor's Signature      Date

Frederick A. Greca, Jr.  
Full name of second joint inventor, if any

U.S.  
Citizenship

Rockford, Michigan  
Residence (City & State)

3640 Verschel Drive Pvt., Rockford, Michigan 49341  
Post Office Address

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**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Gill Industries, Inc., a Michigan corporation, appoints Warner Norcross & Judd LLP, Intellectual Property Practice Group, 900 Fifth Third Center, 111 Lyon Street, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2487, telephone number (616) 752-2000, and the following individual attorneys and agents at such address, as its attorney(s) or agent(s) with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Gregory P. Bondarenko    Reg. No. 44,547  
Charles E. Burpee        Reg. No. 29,776  
William P. Dani          Reg. No. 37,810

Chad E. Kleinheksel    Reg. No. 53,141  
J. Ray Wood             Reg. No. 36,062

Pursuant to Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 3.73(b), Gill Industries, Inc. states that it is the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest in the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**ANIMAL RESISTANT TRASH CONTAINER LID AND TRASH CONTAINER SYSTEM**

the specification of which:

  X   is attached hereto.

\_\_\_\_\_ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as PCT International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ was amended on \_\_\_\_\_.

Gill Industries, Inc. is the assignee by virtue of an assignment from the inventor(s) of the above-identified patent application.

  X   A copy of the assignment is attached.

\_\_\_\_\_ The assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel \_\_\_\_\_  
Frame \_\_\_\_\_.

The undersigned is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

9/17/2003  
Date

Kenneth B. Peirce  
Signature

Kenneth B. Peirce  
Name

Vice-President, CFO and General Counsel  
Title

ASSIGNMENT

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WHEREAS, Bradley D. Miller and Frederick A. Greca, Jr., residing at 1025 Lumina Drive, Jenison, Michigan 49428 and 3640 Verschel Drive Pvt., Rockford, Michigan 49341, respectively, (hereinafter referred to as Assignor) has (have) invented certain new and useful improvements in ANIMAL RESISTANT TRASH CONTAINER LID AND TRASH CONTAINER SYSTEM for which an application for United States Letters Patent was:

X executed on even date herewith

\_\_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_.

WHEREAS, Gill Industries, Inc., a corporation of the State of Michigan, having a place of business at 5271 Plainfield, NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525, (hereinafter referred to as Assignee) is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title, and interest in and to said invention and in and to any Letters Patent that may be granted therefor in the United States and in any and all foreign countries.

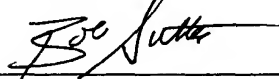

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and for other good and valuable consideration, Assignor hereby sells, assigns, and transfers unto Assignee the full and exclusive right, title, and interest in and to said invention in the United States and in all foreign countries and the entire right, title, and interest in and to all Letters Patent which may be granted therefor in the United States and in all foreign countries and in and to all divisions, reissues, continuations, continuations-in-part, substitutions, renewals, reexaminations, and extensions thereof including the full right to claim for any such application the benefits of the International Convention.

Assignor hereby authorizes and requests the patent office officials in the United States and in all foreign countries to issue all of said Letters Patent, when granted, to Assignee as the owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the same, for the sole use and behoof of Assignee, its successors and assigns.

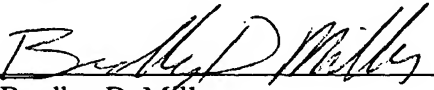
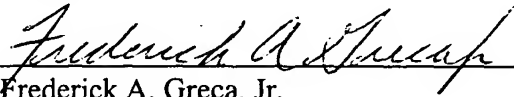
FURTHER, Assignor agrees to communicate to Assignee or its representatives any facts known to Assignor respecting said invention, and to testify in any legal proceeding, to sign all lawful papers, to execute all divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part, substitution, renewal, reexamination, and reissue applications, to execute all necessary assignment papers to cause all of said Letters Patent to be issued to Assignee, to make all rightful oaths and generally do everything possible to aid Assignee, its successors and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper protection for said invention in the United States and in all foreign countries.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I (we) have hereunto set my (our) hand(s) on the date appearing next to my (our) signature.

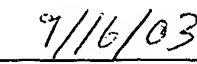

Witness:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

Inventor:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bradley D. Miller  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frederick A. Greca, Jr.

Date:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
9/16/03  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
9/16/03